

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A message filtering circuit used in a distributed control system in which a plurality of nodes are connected to a transmission line, each node controlling components in this node and transmitting messages to other nodes, said message filtering circuit comprising:

a message storing part of taking-in and storing each of said messages transmitted on said transmission line, each of said stored messages including at least one message-sending node, a message-receiving node and a condition information accompanying ~~said data~~ each of said messages;

a registration part for registering data of message-receiving conditions in advance;  
at least two comparison parts for comparing a condition data which is registered in advance in said registration part and ~~said an~~ identifier stored in said message; and

at least one received-message storing part for storing a taken-in message according to results of said comparison-processing performed in said at least one comparison part and for sending said stored message to an external circuit.

2. (Original) A message filtering circuit according to claim 1, wherein a digital signal processor is used for said comparison part.

3. (Original) A message filtering circuit according to claim 1, wherein a programmable logic circuit is used for said comparison part.